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**INFORMATION REPORT**

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DATE DISTR. 20 November 1947

COUNTRY Germany and Austria

SUBJECT Soviet and Soviet-Zone Broadcasts Relating to  
Germany, Austria, & the Approaching London  
Conference

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INTRODUCTION: The very strong emphasis on German unity which characterized last week's broadcasts is continued this week by both Moscow and the Soviet-controlled German radio. All-German representation in London is relatively slighted, but there are continued pleas for a central government, and accusations that the western powers intend to create a west-German state, as a "colony" of western capital. Like Smirnov, the Soviet radio refrains from discussing Secretary Marshall's statement favoring a 40-year disarmament pact, nor is there any monitored mention of the disagreement with regard to a unified German police system.

For the first time in several months of monitored broadcasts, Moscow comments on the Austrian peace treaty. The pattern of comment is similar to that with regard to the German treaty: "Anglo-U.S. circles prevent the signing of an Austrian treaty because they want the division of Austria." There is no monitored mention, however, of the question of priority of this treaty on the agenda of the London Conference, nor of Smirnov's effort to postpone it.

French broadcasts have little to say, as yet, on the London Conference. Soviet broadcasts about France and the Ruhr stress primarily the threat to the French economy involved in giving priority to German rather than French recovery, and the meagreness of coal deliveries to France from the Ruhr.

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1. POTSDAM AGREEMENT: Potsdam is referred to in denouncing "dismemberment" of Germany, and in urging economic unity, "the setting up of an export plan," "democratizing" German industry, and "decentralizing German economic power." It is also claimed that dividing Europe economically, with a line "right across Germany," would hurt German economy. "On the other hand, in the event of an intensive trade revival between western and eastern Europe, Germany would lie at the very center of an economically unified Europe." (Earlier broadcasts had shown a similar effort to identify the U.S., and especially the Marshall Plan, with an absence of east-west trade.)

2. GERMAN UNITY: This is again by far the most emphasized theme. Most of the sub-themes mentioned last week under this heading are continued; and in addition, there are reports of a secret ballot on German unity to be conducted in Halle, and of one million signatures by German youths to an appeal by the Free German Youth for "restoration of Germany's unity at the London Conference."

3. DEMILITARIZATION: It is repeated that many peace-industry concerns are being dismantled while war industry is left intact.

4. DENAZIFICATION: Slighted.

5. ECONOMIC CONTROL: A satirical commentary describes "colonial" conditions in "Bizonia." "Officially it is now called the 'Bi-zone,' but the common folk very soon changed its name into 'Bizonesia'--an ironical hint at the fact that the British and U.S. authorities are endeavoring to turn the bi-zone into a colony, like Indonesia or Polynesia."

6. REPARATIONS: Slighted.

7. ECONOMIC FAILURE: "Northern Bizonesia" is described as a "land of marvels. Here the people sit on coal, yet freeze. For their food, the natives say, 'the Nazis gave us vitamins, the British give us calories, but grub we get from no one!'"

8. LAND REFORM AND SOCIALIZATION: Slighted.

9. AUSTRIA: The Austrian treaty is mentioned, after long neglect, but nothing specific is said about it. "Reactionary circles" are said to be openly advocating a separate peace with Austria, which would be "tantamount to the division of Austria." The long-neglected claim to "Nazi assets" is also mentioned, but with no supporting argument except to call the claim "incontestable."

10. FRANCE AND GERMANY: Monitored French radio comment on the London Conference is very meager as yet, and monitored references consist only of quotations from De Gaulle and from the French press. The quotations are of a familiar sort; for example, the

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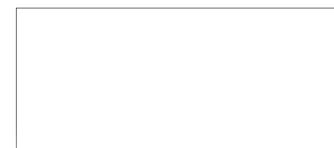
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PARIS PRESSE says that France wants "severe and permanent international control" of the Ruhr.

During the past six months, Soviet comment on France, as related to Germany, has asserted: that the French economy will suffer because priority is given to Germany; that France is being slighted in the allocation of Ruhr coal; that France was ignored when decisions were made by Britain and the U.S., or by the U.S. alone; that restored German war potential threatens French security; that France is being offered political control of the Saar (or Ruhr coal) as an inducement to merge its zone with the U.S. and British zones. All of these are subordinated, however, to the over-all picture of the "rightist" French Government as the docile tool of American "monopolists."

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